

# fact sheet

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## **Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 2005 Fact Sheet**

### ***Improving Science and Innovating Management to End Overfishing***

On September 19, 2005, Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez transmitted to Congress the Bush Administration's proposal to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA).

The goals of the bill are to:

- Promote long-term sustainable use of U.S. marine resources.
- Take action on commitments in the President's U.S. Ocean Action Plan.
- Build upon the successes of MSA and evolve to meet modern needs and scientific understanding.

To accomplish these goals, the bill will:

#### **Promote Use of Market-Based Management Tools**

The Administration's bill promotes the use of the market-based dedicated access privilege program (DAP). In the eight fisheries where DAPs have been implemented since 1990, fishermen have enjoyed higher profits, lower costs, longer fishing seasons and a safer, more stable industry.

#### **End Overfishing**

The Administration's bill sets a hard deadline for ending overfishing and incorporates stock life history into rebuilding requirements.

#### **Scientific Support for Fisheries Management**

Restoring fish populations depends on having the best and most accurate data and information. The Administration's bill expands the types of data that can be collected and provides more tools for collecting that data. The quality and consistency of the data will be improved by establishing a national data collection program and by establishing a scientific peer review process.

#### **National Saltwater Angler Registration**

In order to ensure better collection of data and foster an increased scientific understanding of our nation's fisheries, the bill establishes a national saltwater angler registry.

#### **Emphasize Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries**

The Administration's bill conforms to NOAA's on-going efforts to adopt ecosystem approaches to management and gives the Regional Fishery Management Councils (Councils) the tools and authorization to develop regional fishery ecosystem plans.

**Broaden Council Representation**

The Administration's bill seeks to broaden and better balance the constituent interests represented on the Councils.

**Strengthen Fisheries Enforcement**

To deter repeat offenders, the Administration's bill strengthens fisheries enforcement by substantially increasing civil and criminal penalties for violators.